

State Senator

Andrew J. McDonald

2009

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Representing Stamford & Darien

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E-NEWSLETTER, VISIT:

Protecting Families, Seniors, Small Businesses and Our Communities

The budget battle dominated headlines at the Capitol for much of the year. After months of difficult negotiations, we passed a budget that closes the deficit while protecting Connecticut families from some of the recession's harshest effects. We cut spending by more than \$3 billion and made smart investments in our economy. As your state senator, I will continue working to help stabilize Connecticut's economy and grow jobs as we begin to emerge from this global recession.



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MY PRIORITY:

**Protecting Families, Seniors,
Small Businesses and Our Communities**

The Fight for a Fair Budget

In September, the General Assembly adopted a budget for the next two years. That compromise included more than \$3 billion in spending cuts—the largest reduction in state history. We were able to accomplish this by cutting costs in every agency and all parts of government.

At the same time, we protected middle-class families, the elderly, children and the poor from devastating cuts to critical services. As a result, the people of Connecticut will not face cuts to job creating programs. Because we did not stop working, college students will have access to financial aid, and health care programs for our seniors will still be available.

The budget isn't perfect but it will help stabilize Connecticut's economy and help families survive this difficult time.

Small Businesses: The Backbone of Connecticut's Economy

This past legislative session we took important steps to help protect small businesses and their workers from the the most harmful effects of a global recession.

We passed legislation guaranteeing that 98 percent of all tax filers will not experience an income tax increase. We also modified the estate tax to increase the exemption, slashed rates and eliminated unfair tax “cliffs.”

A recession is the wrong time to eliminate state support for small businesses. That's why we opposed efforts to shut down business incubators, economic assistance grants and supply-chain initiatives—all of which help businesses boost productivity and grow jobs. We protected research and development tax credits and tax exemptions that will continue to spur development and foster job growth in our state. We have been, and must continue to be, committed to passing legislation that will leave our businesses poised to emerge from this global recession more vibrant than before it began.